



2014-2015 Annual Report

ALEXANDRIA CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE
COMMISSION



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Sean McEnearney, Chair

Kate Garvey, Chair-Elect

Chanee Bigelow
Gisselle Brown
Bill Campbell, School Board
Rosario Casiano
Councilman John Chapman
William Chesley
Hyun Choi
Andria Cook
Rose Dawson
Kate Garvey
J. Glenn Hopkins
Stacey Joyner
Gwendolyn Lewis
Councilman Timothy Lovain
Mike Mackey
Gerald Mann
Tammy Mann
Christie Martinez
Gwen Mullen
Jeffrey Murphy
Nelson Majanoe
Brian Orrenmaa
Timothy Peterson
Sonia Price
Joyce Rawlings
Cynthia Skinner
Anthony R. Smith
Dan Solomon
Carlos Suber
Kendallee Walker
Margaret Walsh
Eric Williams
Marc Williams, School Board

Background

The Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) was established by city ordinance on June 25, 2011 and held its first meeting on February 8, 2012. The full Commission meets from September through June on the second Wednesday of the month at seven p.m. in the Sister Cities Conference Room in City Hall.

Tammy Mann, PhD, served as the first Chair from March 2012 through June 2013. Timothy Peterson served as Chair for 2013-2014.

For 2014-2015, Sean McEnearney served as Chair while Kate Garvey served as Chair-Elect. The Commission elected Tammy Mann and Eric Williams to serve as Chair and Chair-Elect, respectively for 2015-2016.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the CYFCC Executive Committee included the Chair, the Chair-Elect and the following chairs of the five working committees:

- Advocacy – J. Glenn Hopkins
- Budget and Finance – Tammy Mann
- Outreach and Membership – Rose Dawson, Brian Orrenmaa
- Research and Data – Chair – Mike Mackey
- Implementation and Monitoring – Gwen Mullen, Stacey Joyner

The Advocacy Committee developed a legislative support agenda that was submitted to City Council for their consideration. The Budget and Finance Committee made recommendations for the City's FY 2016 Budget, including a request to Council for funding for a position that would provide backbone support for the implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan. The Membership and Outreach Committee worked diligently to fill

vacancies and recruit interested residents to volunteer to serve on committees. They are still seeking young adult members as well as those **with special interest in the City's budgetary process. The Research/Data and the Implementation/Monitoring** Committees worked together to lead the Commission effort to oversee the development of the CYMP Implementation Plan, which they will monitor in the future.

The Children & Youth Master Plan

Summary of Activities for the Past Year

- Assembled 10 times as a full commission
- Held 10 Executive Committee meetings
- Convened a retreat on January 30, 2015 with Drs. Preston and Kellene Bruce as contracted facilitators.
- Received updates on the Standards of Learning for Alexandria, the new Youth Career Academy, the FY 16 Budget Process, the ACPS Long-Range Facilities plan, and a site visit to Alleghany County to learn about their shared data measurement system.

The Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission oversaw the development of the Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) for Alexandria. The Plan articulates a vision for the well-being of children and youth in the community and serves as the basis for the coordination, alignment and delivery of effective services for children, youth and their families by the City, Alexandria City Public Schools, and nonprofit and community organizations. The Children and Youth Master Plan was unanimously approved by City Council and the School Board respectively in June of 2014.

OUR COLLECTIVE VISION: ***All of Alexandria's Children Succeed Today and Tomorrow***

OUR GOALS:

- ***Every child will be physically safe and healthy.***
- ***Every child will be academically successful and career-ready.***
- ***Every child will be socially connected, emotionally secure and culturally competent.***
- ***Every family will be equipped and empowered to support the well-being of their children effectively.***
- ***Alexandria's systems and institutions will be responsive, coordinated, efficient and effective in service to children and families.***

Each respective goal has three to five strategies and a number of recommended action steps.

In FY 15 significant work was done to fully engage the non-profit community, school personnel and staff from City agencies in the development of the CYMP Implementation Plan. One hundred and forty people attended two work sessions held in August and April. The outcomes were: 1) Prioritization of initial action steps in the Plan; 2) Commitment of agencies to contribute to implementation of specific action steps; and 3) Identification of areas agencies could work together in pursuit of funding opportunities.

The City Schools Staff Group (CSSG), which has primary responsibility for the Plan's execution, worked collaboratively on the development of the initial Implementation Plan and identified Goal Group leaders.

The Children, Youth and Family Collaborative Commission (CYFCC) held a retreat to prioritize elements of the Plan and clarify roles of the commissioners with respect to the Plan. The CYFCC successfully advocated with Council for funding to provide backbone support for implementation of the CYMP. The Commission identified aspects of the Plan that required the leadership of commissioners, particularly in the areas of advocacy and community engagement.

The Early Care and Education Work Group, with significant support from two private foundations (Bruhn-Morris Foundation and ACT for Alexandria), secured a consultant group to support the development of an Early Care and Education strategic plan to address system alignment, access, comprehensive supports, and quality. A team representing the Early Care and Education Work Group went to Allegheny County to learn about their shared data management system.

The Commission supported and endorsed other activities related to the implementation of the Children and Youth Master Plan. These include:

- Establishment of an Out of School Time Work Group, which is gathering data to inform next steps.
- Alignment of the Alexandria Fund for Human Services priorities with the goals of the Children and Youth Master Plan.
- Planning and convening a three-day Youth Leadership Institute to expand youth engagement by the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP), Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) and the Gang Prevention Task Force.
- Formation of an Alexandria Youth Move chapter for youth who have been involved in the foster care, behavioral health, and juvenile justice systems.
- Pursuit of several grant opportunities, including an ongoing state grant to support youth in transition 16-24 with emerging psychosis (awarded), a federal Performance Partnership Pilot Grant to address older, disengaged youth (not successful), another federal teen pregnancy prevention grant (pending), 21st Century grants through Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), and others.
- Staff presentations on Early Care and Education and Out of School Time to two joint City Council/School Board Work Sessions and monthly reports to the City Council/School Board Subcommittee on the progress of the CYMP.

The Children and Youth Master Plan is recognized and frequently referenced as a roadmap for the future of Alexandria's system of support for children and families.

Alignment with the School System's Strategic Plan

The Superintendent embraced the Children and Youth Master Plan as a foundation for a new five-year ACPS strategic plan and selected three commissioners and one staff to serve on the ACPS Strategic Plan Steering Committee. As a result, the Children and Youth Master Plan and the ACPS Strategic Plan 2020 are aligned.



Commissioner Wins Living Legend Award

Commissioner and advocate Joyce Rawlings won a Living Legend of Alexandria Award for her decades of work connecting children and their families with the school system and involvement in a variety of programs to ensure that youth have a bright future.

Commission Staff Support

Deborah Warren, Department of Community & Human Services

Ron Frazier, Department of Community & Human Services

Carol Farrell, Department of Community and Human Services

Jacqueline Coachman, Department of Community and Human Services

Shanna Samson, Alexandria City Public Schools

Barbara Farrington, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities